



City of Hampton, VA

Meeting Minutes

City Council

22 Lincoln Street
Hampton, VA 23669
www.hampton.gov

Ross A. Kearney, II
Will Moffett
Joseph H. Spencer, II
Molly Joseph Ward, Mayor
Christopher G. Stuart
Donnie R. Tuck
George E. Wallace

Staff:
Mary Bunting, City Manager
Cynthia Hudson, City Attorney
Katherine K. Glass, CMC, Clerk of Council

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 5:35 PM Council Chambers, 8th Floor, City Hall

Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice Mayor George E. Wallace Presided

Present: Ross A. Kearney, II, Joseph H. Spencer, II, Christopher G. Stuart, Donnie R. Tuck

Absent: Will Moffett, Molly Joseph Ward

Vice Mayor Wallace welcomed everyone to the Spotlight on Citizens Program and stated Mayor Ward recently lost her mother and we sympathize with her during this time of grief. He noted Mayor Ward was present at the afternoon session in order to hear her peers' comments regarding the budget. He further noted she will present herself at such time when she feels she is sufficiently able to undertake the responsibilities of the office of Mayor.

Councilman Moffett was not present at the time of roll call; however, arrived shortly thereafter.

Ceremonial Items - "Spotlight on Citizens"

Technology Coordinator Mr. Brian Marchese greeted the members of Council, City Manager and City Attorney and gave the following introduction for the Spotlight on Citizens Program: Tonight's program is in recognition of the Joint Base Langley-Eustis Meals on Wheels program and the outstanding efforts of the Best Kept Secret Organization. Council will also be presented with a restored photograph of the City's first Council.

1. 12-0151 Proclamation in Recognition of the Volunteer Efforts of the Airmen of Joint Base Langley-Eustis

Mr. Marchese invited representatives of Joint Base Langley-Eustis to come forward. The representatives were recognized and photographed with the members of Council. Councilman Spencer commented that this Inspector General Team travels worldwide critiquing men and women in the Air Force ensuring morale is high. They put in many hours away from home as most of our service members do during this time of National conflict. He added the fact that this group comes home to participate in this noteworthy program is the finest example of servant leaders he could imagine. Councilman Spencer read and presented the proclamation proclaiming April 25, 2012 as Langley Air Force Base Community Service Appreciation Day. Councilman Spencer presented a 400th Anniversary City of Hampton coin to each member of the Inspector General Team. A copy of the proclamation is attached to the minutes.

Master Sergeant Michael Harris made remarks on behalf of Joint Base Langley-Eustis and thanked Council for recognizing their volunteerism within the community.

READ AND PRESENTED by Councilman Joseph H. Spencer, II.

2. 12-0152 Recognition of Terry Riddick and the Best Kept Secret/Stop the Violence Organization

Vice Mayor Wallace introduced the item in recognition of Mr. Terry Riddick and the Best Kept Secret/Stop the Violence Organization.

Mr. Marchese said Mr. Terry Riddick and The Best Kept Secret have done a great deal to curb youth violence in Hampton. Terry, along with his brothers and sisters, Randy, Wilson, Wanda and Teresa were raised by a single mother, Wendy Riddick-Spellman, who taught them how important it was to look presentable and be well groomed. In 2005, when the Riddick brothers were aspiring rap artists, the unthinkable happened when their cousin was gunned down. Their future was suddenly changed and it was made clear what they should do next. They developed a simple message of "Put down the guns and stop killing each other." They needed a way to work in the underserved, high-crime neighborhoods in Hampton Roads. Terry said "We have to give something to these kids in order for them to hear our message." Growing up, the Riddick children could not afford haircuts; so, they learned how to cut hair themselves. This is what they decided to bring to the table for the young children in the community. Terry said "With your barber, it's one-on-one. A lot of kids don't want to talk in a group, and some kids don't have that father figure, so we try to be there," adding "as we come back, again and again, they get to know us."

Mr. Marchese noted he got to meet Terry and his brothers prior to the meeting and he could tell their heart and care for these children, which is a thing to behold and respect. In Hampton, the Best Kept Secret has regularly visited many places throughout the City including Lincoln Park and Harbor Square near city line and other places. They have also taken 15 guns off the streets by meeting with these kids. The Best Kept Secret is making a big difference in Hampton one haircut at a time; therefore, we honor and thank them.

The Riddick brothers came forward to be recognized and were photographed with the members of Council.

Mr. Terry Riddick thanked Council for the recognition. He stated he met Mayor Ward a few years ago and told her she was one of the few Mayors throughout the 757 area code area that has recognized what is going on in the community. He continued saying when Councilmembers and Mayors throughout the cities come out of their comfort zone, for example, when Councilmembers and Mayors come to a night club to address violence and gangs that is a huge accomplishment because most Mayors and Councilmembers would not be willing to do that. He stated that says a lot about the Councilmembers and Mayor of the City of Hampton, as other cities have not been as supportive as the City of Hampton. He said we will fight until we get results, and that is what it takes to make a change.

Vice Mayor Wallace commented that oftentimes, people say "It takes a village to raise a child" and they talk the talk, but do not walk the walk. The Riddicks are the epitome of walking the walk and making a difference in the lives of young men in our community. He stated we are blessed to have them in our community and thanked them for all they do.

Councilman Moffett commented that he met the Riddick brothers years ago at an anti-violence event at the Y.H. Thomas Community Center. He stated these men have been all over the region and are most deserving of this recognition. He thanked the Riddick brothers for their service and encouraged them to "stay on mission".

COUNCIL recognized Terry Riddick along with his brothers, Wilson and Randy, for their youth violence prevention efforts in our community.

3. 12-0153 Recognition of Robert R. Harper of Bob Harper Photography for the Donation of a Portrait of Hampton's First City Council and Employees.

Mr. Marchese invited Ms. Jenny Brown representing Bob Harper Photography to present Council with a restored photograph of Hampton's first City Council which includes the Mayor's grandfather.

Ms. Brown stated she was humbled to stand before these amazing servicemen and citizens. She thanked Council for recognizing Bob Harper Photography. She said they were excited when Councilman Kearney presented the image to be restored. She noted Mr. Harper who did the imagery and restoration could not be present due to a previous engagement. She presented the restored photo to Councilman Kearney.

Councilman Kearney stated he had noticed the picture for a long time and recognized some of the people in it and asked for permission to research it. He stated with the blessing of the City Manager, his research determined this was a picture of the first City Council after consolidation in 1952 when communities including Elizabeth City County, Phoebus and Hampton joined together to create the City of Hampton. He said with the help of Bob Harper Photography and Mr. Hardy Cash, the picture has been restored with names labeled at the bottom. He added Mayor Ward's grandfather, George C. Bentley, is in the photograph making it even more significant. He noted others in the photo include Mr. Ned Bloxom and Mr. John Mittelmaier. He further noted Bob Harper Photography located on Queen Street donated their services to complete this restoration project.

Ms. Bunting accompanied Ms. Brown to the rear of Chambers to hang the photograph.

Councilman Stuart noted that after retiring as a Colonel in the U.S. Army, Mr. Bob Harper chose Hampton as the City where he wanted to live. He is emblematic of service and upon his retirement, chose Downtown Hampton to establish his small business running a wonderful photography studio.

Vice Mayor Wallace stated that concluded the Spotlight on Citizen Program and noted the Public Comment Period would begin at 6:00 p.m.

COUNCIL thanked Jenny Brown who was representing Robert R. Harper of Bob Harper Photography for the restored photograph of Hampton's first City Council and some members of the staff at that time. The photograph was hung in City Council chambers by the City Manager and Ms. Brown. There was a short recess to transition to the public comment portion of the meeting.

Public Comment

Vice Mayor Wallace welcomed everyone to the Public Comment Period.

Clerk of Council Ms. Katherine Glass read the protocol for the Public Comment Period and noted while citizens are permitted to speak on any topic during the Public Comment Period, a Public Hearing is scheduled this evening regarding the City's FY13 budget. She suggested if speakers' comments were related to the City's budget, they may prefer to speak during the 7:00 P.M. session so that those comments will be captured as part of the budget meeting record.

Mr. Thomas Sinclair, 384 Eaton Street, made the following statement: I want to praise the City Council for what they have done and for what they plan to do in the future. I also want to remind everyone to vote for the next Councilmembers and work with them also. We should all support them, get out to vote and take someone with you if you possibly can. Thank you very much.

Mr. Dan McFarland, 136 O'Canoe Place, made the following statement: I am a lifelong citizen of Hampton and was educated at St. Clair Elementary, Eaton Middle and Hampton High Schools. I've been a music teacher for twenty years in the City. Hard economic times have forced our school division and City leaders to dangerously experiment with how cheaply they can educate our populous.

Mr. McFarland said he would draw from a much wiser person than himself to explain what he believes is happening by telling the following true story to illustrate this dilemma: My father-in-law (Hatcher Williams) was a respected and very successful headmaster of Blue Ridge Boys Prep School in Saint Georges, Virginia outside of Charlottesville. He transformed it into a well endowed school with a defined mission to help average students with reading problems prepare for college and for business. When he retired, many schools asked him to sit on their Board of Trustees. One particular school was facing financial difficulties and falling enrollment. This board debated numerous ideas on how to lower tuition and fees, cut expenses (which is happening with us right now), undercut the competition and attempt to attract more students. They asked Hatcher "What do you think?" He stopped the discussion cold by telling them "Nobody wants the cheapest education money can buy." He (Hatcher) explained that they had the totally

wrong vision for success and long-term growth of the school community. He recommended a concerted effort to recruit students by increasing the amenities at the school, modernizing their computer capabilities to attract new students, increasing the tuition to cover the cost and selling a world-class educational environment. The school turned around and was successful.

Mr. McFarland continued his statement. I realize that public schools are totally different and this is "political football". Many citizens don't see the vision for success and long-term growth in the community. Like them, I look forward to lower property taxes, but not at the peril of services. As a taxpayer, I propose that you vote to reduce property taxes only marginally by temporarily indexing the tax rate during the recession and gradually reverting to the existing rate as home values increase. The revenue stream to the City and the schools must be protected unless you believe the cheapest education money can buy is the way to attract families, professionals and businesses to Hampton. Nobody wants the cheapest education money can buy. Thank you.

Mr. Frank Ottofaro Jr., 341 Wrexham Court, made the following statement: I have lived in Hampton all of my life. Ross, I hope you are feeling better and I am glad to see that you are back. I have nothing written down, so I am not going to go negative at all. I think everyone needs a break including us on our side of the family. I want to offer my condolences to Mayor Ward and her own family. I did have an opportunity to go by her house last Friday night to see her, after asking obviously if it would be okay to do so. She obviously granted me that request. From my family to hers, we are very sorry for her loss. I obviously know how it feels. It has been over a week since the April 11th meeting when I came down here. We gave quite a speech that night from everybody. Obviously, I haven't heard anything and I didn't expect to, but I still have to at least ask. It doesn't hurt to do that. Again, I am asking for any consideration, any respect, a side meeting, a public meeting – it does not matter which it is. My father came down here for twelve years as everybody knows. It has been in the papers. The past couple of days, it has been in the James River Journal website. It has been getting kind of ugly again. I really don't like ugly either, but that is where it is going again. I'm open to any meetings with my family and the City to iron these things out and put it to rest and move forward. We didn't have a choice. You took that away from us. If my father was here, he would want me to be here in his absence. Here I am asking again. I would like consideration to talk about this in a meeting sometime, preferably sooner than later to get this ironed out and put behind all of us. Any comments would be appreciated. If you need my phone number, I will give it to you. I will be here after the session to give you my personal cell phone number so that you can call me. Maybe we can do something. It doesn't need to be negative all the time and tonight is one of those nights. Thank you.

Ms. Sherry Spring, 710 Settlers Landing Road, greeted the members of Council, City Manager and City Attorney and made the following statement: I am the Executive Director of the Downtown Hampton Development Partnership (DHDP). I'm here to speak on the FY13 Budget. I'm doing it at this time because I couldn't be here at 7:00 p.m. I'm here to commend your efforts in the development of this budget especially during these challenging economic times. I also applaud your efforts in the outreach in public engagement you exercised in your budgeting process. Ms. Bunting spent time reviewing the highlights of the budget with the DHDP Board at our March meeting followed by discussion with our members. The Board greatly appreciated her time and the opportunity to provide her input. The DHDP greatly appreciates your continued

support of our efforts and we look forward to many joint successes in the upcoming year. Thank you so much for everything you do for us and thank you for your time tonight.

Mr. Eddie Deerfield, 1515 Garrow Circle, greeted the members of Council, City Manager and City Attorney and made the following statement: I, too, would like to extend my condolences to Mayor Ward for losing her mom. Fifteen minutes before I got ready to leave tonight, I received an email and I felt it was important to do this instead of what I was going to do.

Mr. Deerfield read the following email he received (author unknown): Dear Eddie, it was great seeing you at last Friday's forum. It was my first in many years and I was hoping to hear some very uplifting things. I wasn't disappointed in most of the candidates, but I did notice something that I have heard in the past, but witnessed for the first time. Anytime an individual has to stand on the shoulders of someone else to take credit for something that they did not personally accomplish nor set into motion and fight for minorities, which includes women, from the beginning to the end every step of the way, is sad indeed. My recollections and notes (copious notes as they recalled) clearly record four solid reasons why I fired a City Manager. He knows why I voted the way I did – because I spoke with him to his face and have since. I have no trust in someone who looks me in the face and is not truthful – not once, but twice. The kingmakers, puppet masters, pollsters, the political action committees, the closet haters, the naysayers, the no-voters, the preachers, the puppet want-to-be's will never be able to make you vote the way that they tell you to vote. Every registered voter should make it a point to go to the polls on Tuesday, May 1st, and say..I am voting my way for my candidate. I am voting for someone who will look me in the face and tell me the truth at all cost. I am voting for someone who has my back and will call for another audit of the assessor's office like the one in April 2006. Force management and your elected officials to get the numbers correct on assessments, the largest source of revenue in the City, and stop playing the shell game. The City is setting an example of how to rob Peter to pay Paul and they are doing it with your money. The last time that Pierces Barbeque in Williamsburg pulled up to the front doors at City Hall to feed the Budget Office Staff and eighth floor personnel for working on the budget, it cost the taxpayers almost \$1,000. \$989.90, I believe. So when someone tells you that they know where the bodies are buried, why are they just telling you now? They were on the inside and had a chance to change it. They should have started getting rid of the cancer a long time ago. Voters, stand up, grab your broom and make a clean sweep once and for all. Give yourself a new beginning. Now is the time to go to the polls Tuesday. Thank you.

Mr. Archie Allen, 222 Mill Point Drive, greeted the members of Council, City Manager and City Attorney and made the following statement: I own George Marina as well as Hampton Boat and RV Storage on Kecoughtan Road. The first thing I want to mention tonight is you missed a good opportunity this past Saturday to go to the 12th Annual Children's International Festival put on by the Hampton Parks and Recreation Department. Parks and Recreation did a terrific job.

Mr. Allen passed out a brochure to the members of Council and continued his statement: The brochure that I passed out is a passport. Each child would buy this passport for a dollar and go around to different countries and their passport would be stamped for that country. They were also given an explanation about that country and the culture of that country. This was an opportunity for the children to learn other cultures besides ours.

Mr. Allen continued his statement on a different subject. The second thing that I would like to mention and thank Ms. Bunting and her staff for not doing anything with is the boat tax and RV tax this year. The reason that touches my heart is because I own the Marina and I own a storage lot. I had three people come to me last week that were outside of the City that have their units stored with me because of the boat tax and RV tax. One was boat and two were RV's. When people talk about the tax, it does bring money to the City. Thank you.

Mr. Edwin Boone, 48 Snow Street, made the following statement: In six more days, Hampton will be having the most important election year ever. The City is facing rising debt and reduced revenue. We need a Council that endorses a conservative fiscal policy. Land acquisitions need to be curtailed as this takes land off the tax rolls. The school funding formula needs to be revisited. The 61% of the real estate and personal property tax did not factor in failing assessments. It was a short-sighted decision and needs to be revised. Every time the City buys land and takes it off the tax rolls, the school funding is further reduced. I have attended many of the forums. Due to unfortunate circumstances, we were not able to hear the Mayor's reply to very important questions. However, we do know the voting record from building new courthouses to Buckroe land sales to paying a bank to locate in downtown and reducing full Council meetings to one a month. It's on the record. And now there is the claim on the campaign mailer that the Mayor led the efforts for Fort Monroe. In reality, she followed the lead of 7,000 people who signed a petition in 2010. However, she only accomplished getting half of a true National Park. I stand here all evening and list the various things that have been done behind closed doors. But it will accomplish nothing if the citizens do not take this election into their own hands. If you don't vote, you have no right to complain. The polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. There are no excuses. We need Donnie Tuck for Mayor, Tom Gear, Theresa Sellers and Hugh Bassette for City Council to get our majority four vote to turn this City around and get rid of the gang of four that is destroying this City and running the citizens to other cities and counties. Please put this into the minutes in its entirety.

Ms. Tonya Hutchinson, 202 Marsh Loop, greeted the members of Council and made the following statement: I am the President of the Hampton Education Association. I stand before you tonight in support of the School Board's budget. I have been an employee of Hampton City Schools for the past seven years. There have been several cuts in medical and dental benefits. Classrooms are overcrowded and teachers and support staff are underpaid. We are soliciting funding to continue with the success of our future leaders. It takes every member both school staff and community to produce lifelong learners. By doing this, we need our bus drivers available at every school, for they are the ones that transport our students to and from school; they are the first and last educators of the day. Our cafeteria monitors provide assistance for the teachers to have a duty free lunch. They also talk with students about life skills and treat them like they are their parents. Again, both the drivers and aids have such enormous jobs for such small pay. Please assist Hampton City Schools in funding our next doctors, lawyers, City Council members and government leaders. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Wallace stated Ms. Hutchinson was the last speaker that had signed up and asked if there were any additional speakers present that wished to address Council. There was one additional speaker.

Mr. Romy Singh, 900 Aberdeen Road, made the following statement: I am a Hampton resident. I am here on behalf of the 7-11 Franchise Owner Association and 15 plus Indian convenience stores located in Hampton. The City needs to find a way to notify the local convenience stores that are going to be directly hit from cigarette taxes. There is a 70 cents per pack difference currently in comparison to Yorktown. There are several City residents who are traveling to the neighboring cities to buy cigarettes. We should not forget that they not only buy cigarettes, but also spend our dollars in other cities, so our City is also losing revenue in sales taxes. As a Hampton resident, I would like to say to not raise taxes on cigarettes because this has a direct impact on convenience stores. We are already losing revenue to other cities and we should not push our residents to go to other cities for shopping. I would like to add, our gross profit in Hampton is 7-10% on cigarettes; whereas Yorktown retailers are getting a 15-20% margin on cigarettes. Any tax increase directly impacts the retailers. Currently, convenience stores are already suffering due to the high cigarette taxes and low margin which also impacts business and employment. I would appreciate it if you would please not raise the cigarette tax. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Wallace called for additional speakers. As there were no additional speakers, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. Vice Mayor Wallace stated the evening session would convene at 7:00 p.m.

Molly Joseph Ward
Mayor

Katherine K. Glass, CMC
Clerk of Council

Date approved by Council _____

Proclamation

PROCLAIMING APRIL 25, 2012

AS

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE COMMUNITY SERVICE APPRECIATION DAY

IN THE CITY OF HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, the City of Hampton is proud to be home of Langley Air Force Base (LAFB) where Airmen and Civilians who selflessly defend our liberties every day live, work and deploy; and

WHEREAS, these Airmen and Civilians are proud to help in their communities by volunteering to serve programs like the Peninsula Agency on Aging; and

WHEREAS, the Peninsula Agency on Aging established in 1974, provides programs in cooperation with other community agencies in Hampton, Newport News, Williamsburg, Pocomoon, and James City and York counties to assist older Virginians in independent and productive living; and

WHEREAS, there are over 180 volunteers from LAFB supporting the Peninsula Agency on Aging Meals on Wheels Program - 26 LAFB individuals volunteer for the Newport News Denbigh area - Two LAFB groups cover the Newport News East End region - Two LAFB groups for Newport News Mid-town, and - 14 LAFB groups cover the City of Hampton; and

WHEREAS, a specific group of volunteers at LAFB, the Air Combat Command, Inspector General Team (IG), comprised of 15+ civilians and 130+ military personnel. Since 2006 the IG team has actively maintained a daily route to support the efforts with Peninsula Agency on Aging, Meals on Wheels program; and

WHEREAS, the IG team maintains a travel schedule that takes them all over the country, throughout the year, when at Langley they continue to support the Hampton Roads community through volunteer programs such as Meals on Wheels Program every Tuesday of the week; and

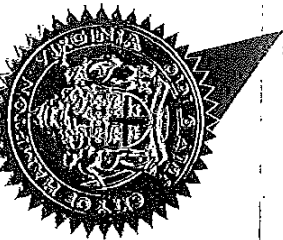
WHEREAS, the IG team has accumulated over 1,050 volunteer hours resulting in 4,200 meals delivered in support of more than 700 homebound Peninsula seniors yearly. They are proud to serve their nation and the local community; and

WHEREAS, today we extend our deep appreciation to them, for volunteering to support important community programs such as Meals on Wheels.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Molly Joseph Ward, Mayor, on behalf of the City Council of the City of Hampton, Virginia, do hereby proclaim April 25, 2012, as

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE COMMUNITY SERVICE APPRECIATION DAY

in the City of Hampton, Virginia and encourage all residents to extend their gratitude to our courageous Airmen around the world, especially those who call the Hampton Roads home, as we are all forever in their debt and are all grateful for their outstanding service.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Hampton, Virginia to be affixed this Twenty-fifth Day of April, Two Thousand and Twelve.

Molly Joseph Ward

Molly Joseph Ward
Mayor

My name is Edwin Boone. I live a 48 Snow Street in Hampton.

In six more days Hampton will be having the most important election ever.

The City is facing rising debt and reduced revenue. We need a council that endorses a conservative fiscal policy. Land acquisitions need to be curtailed as this takes land off the tax rolls. The school funding formula needs to be revisited. The 61% of the real estate and personal property tax did not factor in falling assessments. It was a short-sighted decision and needs to be revised. Every time the City buys land and takes it off the tax rolls, the school funding is further reduced.

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And now there is the claim on a campaign mailer that the Mayor LED the efforts for Fort Monroe. In reality she FOLLOWED the lead of 7,000 people who signed a petition in 2010 however she only accomplished getting half of a true National Park.

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